

1 to us. We have a grand jury in Maryland. It functions  
2 as Delegate Sherbow has said it functions, and not one word is  
3 said about it in the present constitution.

4 The issue is whether there is something so  
5 important about it and so sacred about the way in which  
6 it now operates that it is necessary for us to insert it  
7 in this new constitution.

8 I submit that it is not, and that no argument  
9 has been made on this floor to buttress that statement.

10 I think Delegate Bennett has pointed out another  
11 concern. Grand juries do not meet in every county at  
12 all times. Grand juries, as I understand the practice  
13 in the counties, are called when it is necessary for them  
14 to attend to their business, and in between those times  
15 they are not in session.

16 A man who is arrested and charged with a crime  
17 is told that he has a right to an indictment by grand  
18 jury. He may or may not be told that he has a right or  
19 he has the privilege of waiving that right, and in many  
20 instances will sit in jail for weeks or even months  
21 until a grand jury is impaneled again to hear the evidence